

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 20-33 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2-19 have been canceled by this amendment, and claims 20-33 have been added as new claims. Applicants note that new claims 20-33 correspond to the elected species. No new matter has been added.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's related art in view of Tanaka (US 2006/0008175); claims 4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's related art in view of Tanaka and further in view of Yasunobu (JP-B-3480738); and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's related art in view of Tanaka and Yasunobu, and further in view of Wurzer (US 2002/0090196).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the features of an image information analysis unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of shooting time of the image data, (ii) a shooting frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of shooting time of the image data and the shooting frequency of the image data; a reproduction measurement unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of reproduction time of the image data, (ii) a reproduction frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of reproduction time of the image data and the reproduction frequency of the image data; and a symbol attribute change unit operable to change an attribute of the symbol based on a result of the analysis performed by at least one of said image information analysis unit and said reproduction measurement unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references applied in the Office Action do not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted combination of features recited in amended claim 1.

First, with respect to Applicant's related art as disclosed in the "description of related art" section on pages 1-2 of the specification, Applicants note that it is described therein that a system is known in which a camera device can detect its own position (camera position) using a positioning unit, an object position can be calculated using a camera-object distance retention unit and a direction in which the object is shot, and the camera position, object position and image data can be recorded by associating these positions with the image data.

Based on the foregoing description, Applicants note that while Applicant's related art discloses the ability to detect a camera position and object position, that there is no disclosure therein regarding the above-noted features recited in amended claim 1 of an image information analysis unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of shooting time of the image data, (ii) a shooting frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of shooting time of the image data and the shooting frequency of the image data; a reproduction measurement unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of reproduction time of the image data, (ii) a reproduction frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of reproduction time of the image data and the reproduction frequency of the image data; and a symbol attribute change unit operable to change an attribute of the symbol based on a result of the analysis performed by at least one of said image information analysis unit and said reproduction measurement unit.

Second, with respect to Tanaka, Applicants note that this reference discloses a video monitoring system in which a map is displayed having icons thereon that represent the positions of a plurality of video cameras (see Fig. 3 and paragraph [0069]). As explained in Tanaka, by dragging and dropping one or more of the camera icons to an image display window, a dynamic image from the corresponding video camera can be displayed (see paragraph [0073]).

Regarding the above-noted camera icons which are displayed on the map, Applicants note that, in Tanaka, it is disclosed that when a user creates such an icon, a camera information dialog box 720 appears which enables the user to input information regarding the position in which the camera was installed, the camera direction, and the type of camera (see paragraphs [0108] through [0110], and Fig. 23).

Based on the foregoing description, Applicants note that while Tanaka discloses the ability to display camera icons on a map corresponding to positions where the cameras have been installed, that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tanaka regarding the above-noted features recited in amended claim 1 of an image information analysis unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of shooting time of the image data, (ii) a shooting frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of shooting time of the image data and the shooting frequency of the image data; a reproduction measurement unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of reproduction time of the image data, (ii) a reproduction frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of reproduction time of the image data and the reproduction frequency of the image data; and a symbol attribute change unit operable to change an attribute of the symbol based on a result of the analysis performed by at least one of said image information analysis unit and said reproduction measurement unit.

Third, with respect to Yasunobu (JP B-340738), Applicants note that this reference discloses a file system which utilizes icons to represent the files, wherein the icons are displayed with differing sizes and color based on the size and age (i.e., old or new) of the respective files (see paragraphs [0010], [0014] and [0044] through [0048]).

In particular, in Yasunobu, regarding the change in color of the icon based on whether the file is old or new, it is disclosed therein that the color of the icon is “based on the relative time amount (T2) of file creation time and current time” (see paragraphs [0048]). In other words, in Yasunobu, the color of the icon is based on the amount of time (i.e., relative time amount) that has elapsed between the creation of the file (i.e., file creation time) and the current time, with the older files being shown in deeper colors than the newer files (see paragraphs [0049 and [0057]).

Based on the foregoing description, Applicants note that while Yasunobu discloses the ability to modify an icon based on the size of a file and the age of a file (i.e., old or new), that there is no disclosure or suggestion therein regarding the above-noted features recited in amended claim 1 of an image information analysis unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of shooting time of the image data, (ii) a shooting frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of shooting time of the image data and the shooting frequency of the image data; a reproduction measurement unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of reproduction time of the image data, (ii) a reproduction frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of reproduction time of the image data and the reproduction frequency of the image data; and a symbol attribute change unit operable to change an attribute of the symbol based on a result of the analysis performed by at least one of said image information analysis unit and said reproduction measurement unit.

Fourth, with respect to Wurzer, Applicants note that this reference discloses a system that is able to determine the frequency of a change in an operating state of a modular unit (see paragraph [0012]).

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Wurzer does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features recited in amended claim 1 of an image information analysis unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of shooting time of the image data, (ii) a shooting frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of shooting time of the image data and the shooting frequency of the image data; a reproduction measurement unit operable to analyze information relating to either (i) a length of reproduction time of the image data, (ii) a reproduction frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of reproduction time of the image data and the reproduction frequency of the image data; and a symbol attribute change unit operable to change an attribute of the symbol based on a result of the analysis performed by at least one of said image information analysis unit and said reproduction measurement unit.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted prior art references, either alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious all of the features recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As noted above, claim 18 has been canceled by this amendment.

III. New Claims

As noted above, new claims 20-33 have been added by this amendment. Regarding claims 20-31, Applicants note that these claims depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claims 32 and 33, Applicants note that each of these claims recites the features of analyzing shooting information relating to either (i) a length of shooting time of the image data, (ii) a shooting frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of shooting time of the image data and the shooting frequency of the image data; analyzing reproduction information relating to either (i) a length of reproduction time of the image data, (ii) a reproduction frequency of the image data, or (iii) both the length of reproduction time of the image data and the reproduction frequency of the image data; and changing an attribute of the symbol based on a result of the analysis performed in at least one of said analyzing shooting information and analyzing reproduction information.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that prior art references applied in the Office Action do not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such a combination of features. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 32 and 33 are patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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